

**BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES  
PROPOSED LANGUAGE - MFT EDUCATION  
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE**

This document shows all of the major changes that are proposed to the MFT educational requirements. For conciseness, any subdivisions (i.e., letters (a), (b)) that are not proposed to be changed are not printed in this document.

**Amend BPC § 4980.03 as follows:**

- (i) "Client centered advocacy" as used in this chapter includes researching, identifying, and accessing resources, or other activities, related to obtaining or providing services and supports for clients or groups of clients receiving psychotherapy or counseling services.

**Add BPC § 4980.36 as follows:**

- (a) This section applies to applicants for licensure or registration began graduate study on or after August 1, 2012.
- (b) Applicants for licensure or registration shall possess a doctor's or master's degree conferred by a school, college or university accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education, or a program accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Marriage and Family Therapy Education, in one of the following disciplines:
- (1) marriage, family, and child counseling
  - (2) marital and family therapy
  - (3) psychology
  - (4) clinical psychology
  - (5) counseling psychology
  - (6) counseling with an emphasis in marriage, family, and child counseling
  - (7) counseling with an emphasis in marriage and family therapy
- (c) A doctor's or master's degree program that qualifies for licensure or registration shall do all of the following:
- (1) Integrate marriage and family therapy principles throughout its curriculum.
  - (2) Integrate the principles of mental health recovery-oriented care and methods of service delivery in recovery oriented practice environments throughout its curriculum.
  - (3) Allow for innovation and individuality in the education of marriage and family therapists.
  - (4) Encourage students to develop those personal qualities that are intimately related to effective practice such as integrity, sensitivity, flexibility, insight, compassion, and personal presence.
  - (5) Permit an emphasis or specialization that may address any one or more of the unique and complex array of human problems, symptoms, and needs of Californians served by marriage and family therapists.
  - (6) Integrate the understanding of various cultures and the social and psychological implications of socio-economic position throughout its curriculum.
  - (7) Provide students with the opportunity to meet with various consumers and family members of consumers of mental health services to enhance understanding of their experience of mental illness, treatment, and recovery.

(d) A doctor's or master's degree program that qualifies for licensure or registration shall contain no less than 60 semester or 90 quarter units of instruction that includes, but is not limited to all of the following.

(1) Diagnosis, assessment, prognosis and treatment of mental disorders, including severe mental disorders, evidence based practices, psychological testing and psychopharmacology.

(2) At least 12 semester or 18 quarter units in theories, principles, and methods of a variety of psychotherapeutic orientations directly related to marriage and family therapy, and marital and family systems approaches to treatment and how these theories can be applied therapeutically with individuals, couples, families, adults, children, adolescents, and groups to improve, restore, or maintain healthy relationships.

(3) Developmental issues from infancy to old age. This instruction shall include:

(A) The effects of developmental issues on individuals, couples, and family relationships.

(B) The psychological, psychotherapeutic, and health implications of developmental issues and their effects.

(C) Aging and its biological, social, cognitive, and psychological aspects.

(D) A variety of cultural understandings of human development.

(E) The understanding of human behavior within the social context of socioeconomic status and other contextual issues affecting social position.

(F) The understanding of human behavior within the social context of a representative variety of the cultures found within California.

(4) The broad range of matters that may arise within marriage and family relationships and life events within a variety of California cultures including:

(A) Child abuse assessment and reporting

(B) Spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, intervention strategies, and same gender abuse dynamics

(C) Cultural factors relevant to abuse of partners and family members.

(D) Childbirth

(E) Child rearing, parenting and stepparenting

(F) Marriage

(G) Divorce

(H) Blended families

(I) Long term care

(J) End of life

(K) Grief

Instruction shall include the psychological, psychotherapeutic, community, and health implications of these matters and life events.

(5) Cultural competency and sensitivity, including a familiarity with the racial, cultural, linguistic, and ethnic backgrounds of persons living in California.

(6) An understanding of the effects of socioeconomic status on treatment and available resources.

(7) Multicultural development and cross-cultural interaction, including experiences of race, ethnicity, class, spirituality, sexual orientation, gender and disability and their incorporation into psychotherapeutic process.

- (8) Human sexuality including the study of physiological, psychological and social-cultural variables associated with sexual behavior, gender identity and the assessment and treatment of psychosexual dysfunction.
- (9) Substance abuse, co-occurring disorders, and addiction including all of the following:
- (A) The definition of substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders and addiction.
  - (B) Medical aspects of substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders.
  - (C) The effects of psychoactive drug use.
  - (D) Current theories of the etiology of substance abuse and addiction.
  - (E) The role of persons and systems that support or compound substance abuse and addiction.
  - (F) Major approaches to identification, evaluation and treatment of substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders and addiction, including best practices.
  - (G) Legal aspects of substance abuse.
  - (H) Populations at risk with regard to substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders.
  - (I) Community resources offering screening, assessment, treatment and follow-up for the affected person and family.
  - (K) Recognition of substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders and addiction and appropriate referral.
  - (L) The prevention of substance use disorders and addiction.
  - (M) For purposes of this paragraph, "co-occurring disorders" is defined as a mental illness and substance abuse diagnosis occurring simultaneously in an individual.
- (10) California law and professional ethics for marriage and family therapists. This course shall include, but not be limited to, the following areas of study:
- (A) Contemporary professional ethics and statutory, regulatory, and decisional laws that delineate the profession's scope of practice.
  - (B) The therapeutic, clinical, and practical considerations involved in the legal and ethical practice of marriage and family therapy, including family law.
  - (C) The current legal patterns and trends in the mental health professions.
  - (D) The psychotherapist/patient privilege, confidentiality, the patient dangerous to self or others, and the treatment of minors with and without parental consent.
  - (E) A recognition and exploration of the relationship between a practitioner's sense of self and human values and his or her professional behavior and ethics.
  - (F) Differences in legal and ethical standards for different types of work settings.
  - (G) Licensing law and licensing process.
- (11) Practicum that includes direct client contact, as follows:
- (A) A minimum of six semester or nine quarter units of practicum in a supervised clinical placement that provides supervised fieldwork experience.
  - (B) A minimum of 225 hours of face-to-face experience counseling individuals, couples, families, or groups. Up to 75 of such hours may be gained performing client centered advocacy as defined in Section 4980.43.
  - (C) A student must be enrolled in a practicum course while counseling clients.
  - (D) The practicum shall provide training in all of the following areas:
    - (i) applied use of theory and psychotherapeutic techniques
    - (ii) assessment
    - (iii) diagnosis
    - (iv) prognosis
    - (v) treatment of individuals and premarital, couple, family, and child relationships, including dysfunctions, healthy functioning, health promotion, illness prevention.

- and working with families
- (vi) professional writing including documentation of services, treatment plans, and progress notes
- (vii) how to find and use resources

Educational institutions are encouraged to design the practicum required by this paragraph to include marriage and family therapy experience in low-income and multicultural mental health settings.

(e) A degree qualifying for licensure or registration shall include instruction in the following areas:

- (1) Case management
- (2) Systems of care for the severely mentally ill
- (3) Public and private services and supports available for the severely mentally ill
- (4) Community resources for victims of abuse
- (5) Disaster and trauma response
- (6) Advocacy for the severely mentally ill
- (7) Collaborative treatment

The instruction required in this subdivision may be provided either in credit level coursework or through extension programs offered by the degree granting institution.

(f) The board has the authority to make the final determination as to whether a degree meets all requirements, including, but not limited to, course requirements, regardless of accreditation or approval.

(g) Each applicant shall submit to the board a certification from the educational institution stating that the institution's required curriculum for graduation and any associated coursework completed by the applicant satisfies the requirements of this section.

(h) Each educational institution preparing applicants to qualify for licensure shall notify each of its students by means of its public documents or otherwise in writing that its degree program is designed to meet the requirements of Section 4980.36 and shall certify to the board that it has so notified its students.

(i) The changes made to this section are intended to improve the educational qualifications for licensure in order to better prepare future licentiates for practice, and is not intended in any way to expand or restrict the scope of licensure for marriage and family therapists.

**Amend BPC § 4980.37 as follows:**

(a) This section applies to persons who begin graduate study prior to August 1, 2012.

(b) Applicants shall possess a doctor's or master's degree in marriage, family, and child counseling, marital and family therapy, psychology, clinical psychology, counseling psychology, or counseling with an emphasis in either marriage, family, and child counseling or marriage and family therapy, obtained from a school, college, or university accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education. The board has the authority to make the final determination as to whether a degree meets all requirements, including, but not limited to, course requirements, regardless of accreditation or approval. In order to qualify for licensure pursuant to this subdivision, a doctor's or master's degree program shall be a single, integrated program primarily designed to train marriage and family therapists and shall contain no less than 48 semester or 72 quarter

units of instruction. The instruction shall include no less than 12 semester units or 18 quarter units of coursework in the areas of marriage, family, and child counseling, and marital and family systems approaches to treatment.

The coursework shall include all of the following areas:

(1) The salient theories of a variety of psychotherapeutic orientations directly related to marriage and family therapy, and marital and family systems approaches to treatment.

(2) Theories of marriage and family therapy and how they can be utilized in order to intervene therapeutically with couples, families, adults, children, and groups.

(3) Developmental issues and life events from infancy to old age and their effect upon individuals, couples, and family relationships. This may include coursework that focuses on specific family life events and the psychological, psychotherapeutic, and health implications that arise within couples and families, including, but not limited to, childbirth, child rearing, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, marriage, divorce, blended families, stepparenting, and geropsychology.

(4) A variety of approaches to the treatment of children. The board shall, by regulation, set forth the subjects of instruction required in this subdivision.

(c) (1) In addition to the 12 semester or 18 quarter units of coursework specified above, the doctor's or master's degree program shall contain not less than six semester or nine quarter units of supervised practicum in applied psychotherapeutic techniques, assessment, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of premarital, couple, family, and child relationships, including dysfunctions, healthy functioning, health promotion, and illness prevention, in a supervised clinical placement that provides supervised fieldwork experience within the scope of practice of a marriage and family therapist.

(2) For applicants who enrolled in a degree program on or after January 1, 1995, the practicum shall include a minimum of 150 hours of face-to-face experience counseling individuals, couples, families, or groups.

(3) The practicum hours shall be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirement.

(d) As an alternative to meeting the qualifications specified in subdivision (a), the board shall accept as equivalent degrees, those master's or doctor's degrees granted by educational institutions whose degree program is approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

(e) In order to provide an integrated course of study and appropriate professional training, while allowing for innovation and individuality in the education of marriage and family therapists, a degree program which meets the educational qualifications for licensure shall include all of the following:

(1) Provide an integrated course of study that trains students generally in the diagnosis, assessment, prognosis, and treatment of mental disorders.

(2) Prepare students to be familiar with the broad range of matters that may arise within marriage and family relationships.

(3) Train students specifically in the application of marriage and family relationship counseling principles and methods.

- (4) Encourage students to develop those personal qualities that are intimately related to the counseling situation such as integrity, sensitivity, flexibility, insight, compassion, and personal presence.
- (5) Teach students a variety of effective psychotherapeutic techniques and modalities that may be utilized to improve, restore, or maintain healthy individual, couple, and family relationships.
- (6) Permit an emphasis or specialization that may address any one or more of the unique and complex array of human problems, symptoms, and needs of Californians served by marriage and family therapists.
- (7) Prepare students to be familiar with cross-cultural mores and values, including a familiarity with the wide range of racial and ethnic backgrounds common among California's population, including, but not limited to, Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and Native Americans.
- ~~(b)~~ (f) Educational institutions are encouraged to design the practicum required by ~~subdivision (b) of Section 4980.40~~ this section to include marriage and family therapy experience in low-income and multicultural mental health settings.
- (g) This section shall become inoperative effective January 1, 2019.

**Amend BPC § 4980.38 as follows:**

- (a) This section applies to persons who begin graduate study prior to August 1, 2012.
- ~~(a)-(b)~~ Each educational institution preparing applicants to qualify for licensure shall notify each of its students by means of its public documents or otherwise in writing that its degree program is designed to meet the requirements of Sections 4980.37 and 4980.40, and shall certify to the board that it has so notified its students.
- ~~(b)-(c)~~ In addition to all of the other requirements for licensure, each applicant shall submit to the board a certification by the chief academic officer, or his or her designee, of the applicant's educational institution that the applicant has fulfilled the requirements enumerated in Sections 4980.37 and 4980.40, and subdivisions (d) and (e) of Section 4980.41.

**Amend BPC § 4980.39 as follows:**

- (a) Any applicant for licensure as a marriage and family therapist who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2004 and prior to August 1, 2012, shall complete, as a condition of licensure, a minimum of 10 contact hours of coursework in aging and long-term care, which could include, but is not limited to, the biological, social, and psychological aspects of aging.
- (b) Coursework taken in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure pursuant to this chapter, or in a separate course of study, may, at the discretion of the board, fulfill the requirements of this section.
- (c) In order to satisfy the coursework requirement of this section, the applicant shall submit to the board a certification from the chief academic officer of the educational institution from which the applicant graduated stating that the coursework required by this section is included within the institution's required curriculum for graduation, or within the coursework, that was completed by the applicant.

- (d) The board shall not issue a license to the applicant until the applicant has met the requirements of this section.

**Amend BPC § 4980.40 as follows:**

To qualify for a license, an An applicant for licensure shall have all the following qualifications:

- ~~(a) Applicants shall possess a doctor's or master's degree in marriage, family, and child counseling, marital and family therapy, psychology, clinical psychology, counseling psychology, or counseling with an emphasis in either marriage, family, and child counseling or marriage and family therapy, obtained from a school, college, or university accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, or approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education. The board has the authority to make the final determination as to whether a degree meets all requirements, including, but not limited to, course requirements, regardless of accreditation or approval. In order to qualify for licensure pursuant to this subdivision, a doctor's or master's degree program shall be a single, integrated program primarily designed to train marriage and family therapists and shall contain no less than 48 semester or 72 quarter units of instruction. The instruction shall include no less than 12 semester units or 18 quarter units of coursework in the areas of marriage, family, and child counseling, and marital and family systems approaches to treatment.~~

The coursework shall include all of the following areas:

- ~~(1) The salient theories of a variety of psychotherapeutic orientations directly related to marriage and family therapy, and marital and family systems approaches to treatment.~~
  - ~~(2) Theories of marriage and family therapy and how they can be utilized in order to intervene therapeutically with couples, families, adults, children, and groups.~~
  - ~~(3) Developmental issues and life events from infancy to old age and their effect upon individuals, couples, and family relationships. This may include coursework that focuses on specific family life events and the psychological, psychotherapeutic, and health implications that arise within couples and families, including, but not limited to, childbirth, child rearing, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, marriage, divorce, blended families, stepparenting, and geropsychology.~~
  - ~~(4) A variety of approaches to the treatment of children. The board shall, by regulation, set forth the subjects of instruction required in this subdivision.~~
- ~~(b) (1) In addition to the 12 semester or 18 quarter units of coursework specified above, the doctor's or master's degree program shall contain not less than six semester or nine quarter units of supervised practicum in applied psychotherapeutic techniques, assessment, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of premarital, couple, family, and child relationships, including dysfunctions, healthy functioning, health promotion, and illness prevention, in a supervised clinical placement that provides supervised fieldwork experience within the scope of practice of a marriage and family therapist.~~
- ~~(2) For applicants who enrolled in a degree program on or after January 1, 1995, the practicum shall include a minimum of 150 hours of face-to-face experience counseling individuals, couples, families, or groups.~~

- ~~(3) The practicum hours shall be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirement.~~
- ~~(c) As an alternative to meeting the qualifications specified in subdivision (a), the board shall accept as equivalent degrees, those master's or doctor's degrees granted by educational institutions whose degree program is approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.~~
- ~~(d) All applicants shall, in addition, complete the coursework or training specified in Section 4980.41.~~
- (a) Meet the educational qualifications of either Section 4980.36 or Sections 4980.37 and 4980.41.
- ~~(e) (b) All applicants shall be Be~~ at least 18 years of age.
- ~~(f) (c) All applicants shall have Have~~ at least two years experience that meet the requirements of Section 4980.43.
- ~~(g) (d) The applicant shall pass Pass~~ a board administered written or oral examination or both types of examinations, except that an applicant who passed a written examination and who has not taken and passed an oral examination shall instead be required to take and pass a clinical vignette written examination.
- ~~(h) (e) The applicant shall not Not~~ have committed acts or crimes constituting grounds for denial of licensure under Section 480. The board shall not issue a registration or license to any person who has been convicted of a crime in this or another state or in a territory of the United States that involves sexual abuse of children or who is required to register pursuant to Section 290 of the Penal Code or the equivalent in another state or territory.
- ~~(i) An applicant for licensure trained in an educational institution outside the United States shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board that he or she possesses a qualifying degree that is equivalent to a degree earned from a school, college, or university accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, or approved by the Bureau of Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education. These applicants shall provide the board with a comprehensive evaluation of the degree performed by a foreign credential evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), and shall provide any other documentation the board deems necessary.~~

**Amend BPC § 4980.41 as follows:**

This section applies to persons who begin graduate study prior to August 1, 2012.

All applicants for licensure shall complete the following coursework or training in order to be eligible to sit for the licensing examinations as specified in subdivision ~~(g)~~ (d) of Section 4980.40:

- (a) A two semester or three quarter unit course in California law and professional ethics for marriage and family therapists, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following areas of study:
- (1) Contemporary professional ethics and statutory, regulatory, and decisional laws that delineate the profession's scope of practice.



- (2) The therapeutic, clinical, and practical considerations involved in the legal and ethical practice of marriage and family therapy, including family law.
- (3) The current legal patterns and trends in the mental health profession.
- (4) The psychotherapist/patient privilege, confidentiality, the patient dangerous to self or others, and the treatment of minors with and without parental consent.
- (5) A recognition and exploration of the relationship between a practitioner's sense of self and human values and his or her professional behavior and ethics.

This course may be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirements contained in Section ~~4980.40~~ 4980.37.

- (b) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 28 and any regulations promulgated thereunder.
- (c) A minimum of 10 contact hours of training or coursework in human sexuality as specified in Section 25, and any regulations promulgated thereunder. When coursework in a master's or doctor's degree program is acquired to satisfy this requirement, it shall be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirement contained in Section ~~4980.40~~ 4980.37.
- (d) For persons who began graduate study on or after January 1, 1986, a master's or doctor's degree qualifying for licensure shall include specific instruction in alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency as specified by regulation. When coursework in a master's or doctor's degree program is acquired to satisfy this requirement, it shall be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirement contained in Section ~~4980.40~~ 4980.37.
- (e) For persons who began graduate study during the period commencing on January 1, 1995, and ending on December 31, 2003, a master's or doctor's degree qualifying for licensure shall include coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention. For persons who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2004, a master's or doctor's degree qualifying for licensure shall include a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies, including knowledge of community resources, cultural factors, and same gender abuse dynamics. Coursework required under this subdivision may be satisfactory if taken either in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure or in a separate course. The requirement for coursework shall be satisfied by, and the board shall accept in satisfaction of the requirement, a certification from the chief academic officer of the educational institution from which the applicant graduated that the required coursework is included within the institution's required curriculum for graduation.
- (f) For persons who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2001, an applicant shall complete a minimum of a two semester or three quarter unit survey course in psychological testing. When coursework in a master's or doctor's degree program is acquired to satisfy this requirement, it may be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirement of Section ~~4980.40~~ 4980.37.
- (g) For persons who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2001, an applicant shall complete a minimum of a two semester or three quarter unit survey course in psychopharmacology. When coursework in a master's or doctor's degree program is acquired to satisfy this requirement, it may be considered as part of the 48 semester or 72 quarter unit requirement of Section ~~4980.40~~ 4980.37.

(h) The requirements added by subdivisions (f) and (g) are intended to improve the educational qualifications for licensure in order to better prepare future licentiates for practice, and are not intended in any way to expand or restrict the scope of licensure for marriage and family therapists.

(i) This section shall become inoperative effective January 1, 2019.

**Amend BPC § 4980.44 as follows:**

(a) An unlicensed marriage and family therapist intern employed under this chapter shall:

- (1) Have earned at least a master's degree as specified in Section ~~4980.40~~ 4980.36 or 4980.37.
- (2) Be registered with the board prior to the intern performing any duties, except as otherwise provided in subdivision (e) of Section 4980.43.

**Add BPC § 4980.72 as follows:**

This section applies to persons who are licensed outside of California and apply for licensure on or after January 1, 2014.

The board may issue a license to a person who, at the time of application, holds a valid license issued by a board of marriage counselor examiners, board of marriage and family therapists, or corresponding authority of any state or country, if all of the following are true:

- (1) The applicant's education is substantially equivalent as defined in Section 4980.78.
- (2) The applicant's supervised experience is substantially the equivalent of this chapter. The board shall consider hours of experience obtained outside of California during the six-year period immediately preceding the applicant's initial licensure by that state as a marriage and family therapist.
- (3) The person successfully completes the licensing examinations required by this chapter.

**Add BPC § 4980.74 as follows:**

This section applies to persons who apply for registration or licensure on or after January 1, 2014 and who are not licensed outside of California as described in Section 4980.72 and have education or experience gained outside of California.

- (a) Education gained while residing outside of California shall be accepted toward the registration or licensure requirements if it is substantially equivalent as defined in Section 4980.78.
- (b) Experience gained outside of California shall be accepted toward the licensure requirements if it is substantially equivalent to that required by this chapter.

**Add BPC § 4980.76 as follows:**

An applicant for registration or licensure trained in an educational institution outside the United

States shall provide the board with a comprehensive evaluation of the degree performed by a foreign credential evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), and shall provide any other documentation the board deems necessary.

**Add BPC § 4980.78 as follows:**

This section applies to persons who apply for registration or licensure on or after January 1, 2014.

(a) The Board, in its discretion, may accept education gained outside of California when it is substantially equivalent to Section 4980.36. Substantial equivalency means that the applicant meets the following requirements:

(1) The applicant's degree contains a minimum of all of the following:

(A) 48 semester or 72 quarter units overall.

(B) Six (6) semester or nine (9) quarter practicum units.

(C) 150 practicum hours of face-to-face counseling.

(D) 12 semester or 18 quarter units in the areas of marriage, family, and child counseling and marital and family systems approaches to treatment as specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 4980.36.

(2) The applicant's degree title need not be identical to that required by subdivision (b) of Section 4980.36.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), if the applicant's degree does not contain all of the content or number of units required by subdivision (d) of Section 4980.36, the applicant shall complete the missing course content and units required by subdivision (d) of Section 4980.36.

(4) The applicant completes credit level coursework from a degree granting institution that provides all of the following:

(A) Instruction regarding the principles of mental health recovery oriented care and methods of service delivery in recovery model practice environments

(B) An understanding of various California cultures and the social and psychological implications of socio-economic position.

(C) Structured meeting with various consumers and family members of consumers of mental health services to enhance understanding of their experience of mental illness, treatment and recovery.

(D) Behavioral addiction and co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders as specified in paragraph (9) of subdivision (c) of Section 4980.36.

(5) The applicant completes a course in California law and professional ethics. The content shall include advertising, scope of practice, scope of competence, treatment of minors, confidentiality, dangerous patients, psychotherapist-patient privilege, recordkeeping, patient access to records, HIPAA, dual relationships, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, online therapy, insurance reimbursement, civil liability, disciplinary actions and unprofessional conduct, ethics complaints and ethical standards, termination of therapy, standards of care, relevant family law, therapist disclosures to patients, differences in legal and ethical standards in different types of work settings, and licensing law and licensing process.

**Amend BPC § 4980.80 as follows:**

The board may issue a license to a person who, at the time of application, has held for at least two years a valid license issued by a board of marriage counselor examiners, marriage therapist examiners, or corresponding authority of any state, if the education and supervised experience requirements are substantially the equivalent of this chapter and the person successfully completes the board administered licensing examinations as specified by subdivision ~~(g)~~ (d) of Section 4980.40 and pays the fees specified. Issuance of the license is further conditioned upon the person's completion of the following coursework or training:

- (a) (1) An applicant who completed a two semester or three quarter unit course in law and professional ethics for marriage, and family therapists that included areas of study as specified in Section 4980.41 as part of his or her qualifying degree shall complete an 18-hour course in California law and professional ethics that includes, but is not limited to, the following subjects: advertising, scope of practice, scope of competence, treatment of minors, confidentiality, dangerous patients, psychotherapist-patient privilege, recordkeeping, patient access to records, requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, dual relationships, child abuse, elder and dependent adult abuse, online therapy, insurance reimbursement, civil liability, disciplinary actions and unprofessional conduct, ethics complaints and ethical standards, termination of therapy, standards of care, relevant family law, and therapist disclosures to patients.
  - (2) An applicant who has not completed a two semester or three quarter unit course in law and professional ethics for marriage and family therapists that included areas of study as specified in Section 4980.41 as part of his or her qualifying degree, shall complete a two semester or three quarter unit course in California law and professional ethics that includes, at minimum, the areas of study specified in Section 4980.41.
- (i) This section applies to persons who apply for licensure between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2013, and shall become inoperative effective January 1, 2014.

**Amend BPC § 4980.90 as follows:**

- (a) Experience gained outside of California shall be accepted toward the licensure requirements if it is substantially equivalent to that required by this chapter and if the applicant has gained a minimum of 250 hours of supervised experience in direct counseling within California while registered as an intern with the board. The board shall consider hours of experience obtained in another state during the six- year period immediately preceding the applicant's initial licensure by that state as a marriage and family therapist.
- (b) Education gained while residing outside of California shall be accepted toward the licensure requirements if it is substantially equivalent to the education requirements of this chapter, and if the applicant has completed all of the following:
  - (1) A two semester- or three quarter-unit course in California law and professional ethics for marriage, family, and child counselors that shall include areas of study as specified in Section 4980.41.
  - (2) A minimum of seven contact hours of training or coursework in child abuse assessment and reporting as specified in Section 28 and any regulations promulgated thereunder.

- (3) A minimum of 10 contact hours of training or coursework in sexuality as specified in Section 25 and any regulations promulgated thereunder.
  - (4) A minimum of 15 contact hours of training or coursework in alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency as specified by regulation.
  - (5) (A) Instruction in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention. This instruction may be taken either in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure or in a separate course.  
  
(B) On and after January 1, 2004, a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework or training in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies.
  - (6) On and after January 1, 2003, a minimum of a two semester- or three quarter-unit survey course in psychological testing. This course may be taken either in fulfillment of other requirements for licensure or in a separate course.
  - (7) On and after January 1, 2003, a minimum of a two semester- or three quarter-unit survey course in psychopharmacology. This course may be taken either in fulfillment of other requirements for licensure or in a separate course.
  - (8) With respect to human sexuality, alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency, spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention, psychological testing, and psychopharmacology, the board may accept training or coursework acquired out of state.
- (c) For purposes of this section, the board may, in its discretion, accept education as substantially equivalent if the applicant meets both of the following requirements:
- (1) The applicant has been granted a degree in a single integrated program primarily designed to train marriage and family therapists.
  - (2) The applicant's education meets the requirements of Sections 4980.37 and 4980.40. The degree title need not be identical to those required by subdivision (a) of Section 4980.40 4980.37. If the applicant's degree does not contain the content or overall units required by Section 4980.37 ~~or the overall number of units required by subdivision (a) of Section 4980.40~~, the board may, in its discretion, accept the applicant's education as substantially equivalent if the following criteria are satisfied:
    - (A) The applicant's degree contains the required number of practicum units and coursework required in the areas of marriage, family, and child counseling and marital and family systems approaches to treatment as specified in Section ~~4980.40~~ 4980.37.
    - (B) The applicant remediates his or her specific deficiency by completing the course content, overall units, or both, as required by Section 4980.37 ~~or the units required by subdivision (a) of Section 4980.40~~.
    - (C) The applicant's degree otherwise complies with this section.
- (d) This section applies to persons who apply for registration or licensure between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2013, and shall become inoperative effective January 1, 2014.